

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-102. (Cancelled)

103. (Currently amended) A method of ~~prophylactically~~ treating a condition, comprising:

dissolving a nanocrystalline metal-containing material in a solvent to form a solution;

recognizing a possibility for occurrence of the condition at a second area of a subject;

after recognizing the possibility for occurrence of the condition at a second area of a subject, selecting a first area of the subject for contact with the solution to reduce the occurrence of the condition at the second area of the subject, and

contacting ~~a~~the first area of ~~a~~the subject with ~~a nanocrystalline metal-containing material~~ the solution to reduce the occurrence of the condition at the second area of the subject, wherein:

the first area is different from the second area;

the first area comprises a mucosal membrane selected from the group consisting of the subject's oral cavity and the subject's nasal cavity;

the condition is a microbial respiratory condition; and

the nanocrystalline metal-containing material comprises silver.

104. (Cancelled)

105. (Currently amended) The method of claim 103, wherein the second area is substantially free of the condition when the first area is contacted with ~~the nanocrystalline metal-containing material~~ the solution.

106. (Currently amended) The method of claim 103, wherein the second area has the condition when the first area is contacted with ~~the nanocrystalline metal-containing material~~ the solution.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the nanocrystalline metal-containing material is selected from the group consisting of metals and alloys.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the nanocrystalline metal-containing material is selected from the group consisting of nanocrystalline metal oxides, nanocrystalline metal hydroxides, nanocrystalline metal nitrides, nanocrystalline metal borides, nanocrystalline metal halides, nanocrystalline metal carbides, nanocrystalline metal phosphides, nanocrystalline metal silicates, nanocrystalline metal nitrates, nanocrystalline metal carbonates, nanocrystalline metal sulfides, nanocrystalline metal sulfadiazines, nanocrystalline metal acetates, nanocrystalline metal lactates, nanocrystalline metal citrates, nanocrystalline metal myristates, nanocrystalline metal sorbates, nanocrystalline metal stearates, nanocrystalline metal oleates, nanocrystalline metal glutonates, nanocrystalline metal adipates, nanocrystalline alkali metal thiosulphates metal hydrides, and combinations thereof.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the nanocrystalline metal-containing material comprises nanocrystalline silver.

110. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the nanocrystalline metal-containing material comprises an ionic material.

111. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the nanocrystalline metal-containing material comprises atoms, molecules or clusters.

112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the nanocrystalline metal-containing material comprises an atomically disordered metal-containing material.

113-114. (Cancelled)

115. (Previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the microbial respiratory condition comprises pneumonia.

116. (Cancelled)

117. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~446~~103, wherein the solution contains at least about 0.001 weight percent of the nanocrystalline metal-containing material.

118. (Previously presented) The method of claim 117, wherein the solution contains about 10 weight percent or less of the nanocrystalline metal-containing material.

119. (Cancelled)

120. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~446~~103, further comprising:
forming the solution into an aerosol; and
inhaling the aerosol.

121-126. (Cancelled)

127. (Original) The method of claim 103, wherein the second area comprises the subject's lungs.

128. (Original) The method of claim 127, wherein the condition is nosocomial pneumonia or ventilator-associated pneumonia.

129-130. (Cancelled)

131. (Currently amended) The method of claim 103, wherein the first area is substantially free of the condition when the first contacted with ~~the nanocrystalline metal-containing material~~ the solution.

132. (Currently amended) The method of claim 103, wherein the first area has the condition when the first contacted with ~~the nanocrystalline metal-containing material~~ the solution.

133-134. (Cancelled).

135. (Original) The method of claim 103, wherein the condition is nosocomial pneumonia or ventilator-associated pneumonia.

136-138. (Cancelled)